In the Claims:

1-36. Cancelled.

37. (Currently amended) A method of reducing IGF mediated proliferation of a population of cancerous cells, the method including the step of contacting the population of cells with ~~an~~ the altered IGFBP-2 ~~as in~~ of claim ~~1~~ 42.

38. (Previously presented) The method of reducing IGF mediated proliferation of a population of cancerous cells as in claim 37 wherein the cancerous cells are selected from the group consisting of prostate, colon and breast cancer cells.

39. (Original) The method of reducing IGF mediated proliferation of a population of cancerous cells as in claim 37 wherein the cancerous cells are colon cancer cells.

40- 41. Cancelled.

42. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule ~~able to effect binding of IGF-I or IGF-II with high affinity~~ of claim 67 wherein ~~an inhibited release of IGF occurs on contact with an extracellular matrix (ECM),~~ the altered IGFBP-2 molecule ~~having~~ has an alteration at both of positions 180 and 181.

43. (Previously presented) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 42 wherein the alterations are K180A and K181A.

44. (Previously presented) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 42 additionally having an alteration at amino acid position 234.

45. (Previously presented) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 42 additionally comprising a deletion of amino acids 114 through 170.

46. (Previously presented) An altered human IGFBP-2 molecule able to effect binding of IGF-I or IGF-II with high affinity wherein an inhibited release of IGF occurs on contact with an extracellular matrix (ECM), the altered IGFBP-2 molecule having an alteration at the amino acid at position 234.

47. (Previously presented) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 46 wherein the alteration is K234A.

48. (Previously presented) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 46 additionally having an alteration at both of positions 180 and 181.

49. (Previously presented) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 46 additionally comprising a deletion of amino acids 114 through 170.

50. (Previously presented) An altered human IGFBP-2 molecule able to effect binding of IGF-I or IGF-II with high affinity wherein an inhibited release of IGF occurs on exposure to a protease, the altered IGFBP-2 molecule comprising a deletion of amino acids 114 through 170.

51. (Previously presented) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 46 additionally having an alteration at both of positions 180 and 181.

52. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid encoding the altered IGFBP-2 molecule according to claim 42.

53. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid encoding the altered IGFBP-2 molecule according to claim 44.

54. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid encoding the altered IGFBP-2 molecule according to claim 45.

55. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid encoding the altered IGFBP-2 molecule according to claim 46.

56. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid encoding the altered IGFBP-2 molecule according to claim 49.

57. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid encoding the altered IGFBP-2 molecule according to claim 50.

58. (Previously presented) A method of reducing IGF mediated proliferation of a population of cancerous cells, the method including the step of contacting the population of cells with the altered IGFBP-2 of claim 45.

59. (Previously presented) The method of reducing IGF mediated proliferation of a population of cancerous cells as in claim 58 wherein the cancerous cells are selected from the group consisting of prostate, colon and breast cancer cells.

60. (Previously presented) The method of reducing IGF mediated proliferation of a population of cancerous cells as in claim 58 wherein the cancerous cells are colon cancer cells.

61. (Previously presented) A method of reducing IGF mediated proliferation of a population of cancerous cells, the method including the step of contacting the population of cells with the altered IGFBP-2 of claim 46.

62. (Previously presented) The method of reducing IGF mediated proliferation of a population of cancerous cells as in claim 61 wherein the cancerous cells are selected from the group consisting of prostate, colon and breast cancer cells.

63. (Previously presented) The method of reducing IGF mediated proliferation of a population of cancerous cells as in claim 61 wherein the cancerous cells are colon cancer cells.

64. (Previously presented) A method of reducing IGF mediated proliferation of a population of cancerous cells, the method including the step of contacting the population of cells with the altered IGFBP-2 of claim 49.

65. (Previously presented) The method of reducing IGF mediated proliferation of a population of cancerous cells as in claim 64 wherein the cancerous cells are selected from the group consisting of prostate, colon and breast cancer cells.

66. (Previously presented) The method of reducing IGF mediated proliferation of a population of cancerous cells as in claim 64 wherein the cancerous cells are colon cancer cells.

67. (New) (New) An altered human IGFBP-2 molecule able to effect binding of IGF-I or IGF-II with high affinity wherein an inhibited release of IGF occurs on contact with an extracellular matrix (ECM), the altered IGFBP-2 molecule having an alteration at position 180.

68 . (New) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 67 wherein the alteration is K180A